

85

TO: Statewide Planning Office
Division of Program Development
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

12/22/05

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the state transportation budget for the next several years in the revised STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program).

The Juneau Road allocations should be zeroed out. The road is unnecessary, unsafe, and unreliable. It is also taking money away from more essential transportation priorities. Here in Haines our local road improvements have been delayed, such as improvements to Lutak Road, which were scheduled to begin in 2006.

Investments should be made in the Marine Highway System. It has served us well in the past and can continue to do so in the future if properly managed. A start could be putting money back to replace the LeConte to serve northern Southeast. The northern Lynn Canal run between Juneau, Haines and Skagway is the only portion of any "highway system" in the state that has ever made money.

It is ridiculous to spend so much money on an extremely dangerous road that will often be closed in the winter due to avalanches, and still does not directly link the capital to any existing roads.

The "bridges to nowhere" also cost too much, and take moneys needed for other projects in the State, such as delayed safety and congestion improvements to the Seward, Parks, Glenn and Alaska Highways. These should be fully funded and done on schedule.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters,



Russ Lyman
PO Box 81
Haines, AK 99827
907-766-2724

